

# Australia U.F.O. Bulletin

## THE AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. BULLETIN

This is the official publication of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

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Australia



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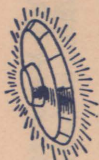
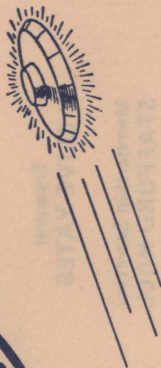
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# The AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. BULLETIN







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The Society welcomes reports of unusual  
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**Society History**

**1957**

**1957**

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of  
the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying  
Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas,  
in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian  
Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two  
years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the  
"Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This  
shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation  
Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency  
passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was  
formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying  
Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the  
"Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B.  
as President. In 1968 the name was again altered — this time to the  
"Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably  
best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in  
1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian  
U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour  
program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth  
Behind Flying Saucers".

The Society had held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a  
scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in  
General Meetings and maintains the largest U.F.O. library in the Southern  
Hemisphere, making books available by post, to members throughout the  
Commonwealth.

Membership of this Society — which maintains the largest membership of  
any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere — is open to all who  
are genuinely interested in the subject.



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## The Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, 3189, Vic. Australia -VBH 0122

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## EDITORIAL

The passing of Dr.J.Allen HYNEK came as sad news to ufologists throughout the world. perhaps his greatest effort was the difficult task of presenting the UFO story to the scientific community.

The most outstanding contribution of VUFORS to Dr.Hynek's research was to finance his visit from Australia to New Guinea for first hand on site inspection of the area around Goodenough Bay and interviews with witnesses involved with the famous Rev.William GILL, encounter of 1959. Vera EXLEY, who resided in Port Moresby, at the time of his visit provided his accomodation and arranged a reception and meeting with interested people in the vicinity.

Judith MAGEE, served as program director and arranged a combined reception and meeting with individuals who had experienced close encounters. This meeting took place in the penthouse suite of lawyer Peter NORRIS at 100 Collins Street, Melbourne. It was at this meeting where Allen Hyneck met Rev.Gill, for the first time.

Another key case in which Dr.Hynek was interested concerned the unusual encounter with an object that diverted the headlights of a motor car (The bent headlight incident) driven by Ron SULLIVAN, who came from Maryborough to be interviewed.

A few days prior to Dr Hynek's visit. Peter Norris, who was VUFORS President at the time, located the Naval Officer who was the pilot of a Sea Fury back in 1954 envolved with the outstanding radar/visual encounter with a UFO while flying to the Naval Base at Nawra. Arrangements were made with the Naval Officer to meet with Dr Hynek in Canberra.NOTE: A number of statements have been published concerning this meeting in at least one book and in other publications which are incorrect!

The home of Roy and Pearl RUSSELL, was the meeting place of Dr Hynek and Tom DRURY in Brisbane. This famous film case had been known throughout the UFO research community during the past three decades but it was the first time the two had met on a personal basis.

CONT PAGE 2 .....

# ON THE UFO TRAIL

By Paul Norman

The name of an engine driver was referred to VUFORS for the purpose of an interview concerning a reported train stoppage which coincided with the appearance of an unexplained light while crossing the Nullabor Plain, near Ooldea in South Australia. The reason for the request was because of an unsatisfactory assessment of the incident which occurred on the night of 16th January, 1985.

It had been previously reported that the driver had mistaken the light as a reflection from the train engine's headlight on a sand dune.

On 18th September, this year, I met with the driver of this Australian National Railway goods train who gave the following details: He was an ex-policeman who had served with the South Australian Police Force for seven years before his employment with the railways. The event did not begin as a UFO report. The driver and his assistant had first spotted a light which appeared to be falling toward the ground. They at first thought the light was on an aircraft. When the light disappeared they feared it had crashed.

About fifteen minutes later they were surprised to see the light appear again, this time near the engine. At the same time the engine began to lose power. During this second appearance the headlight had been turned off so the drivers could try to identify the object just ahead of the engine. The driver said that when the engine began to lose power the men were "scared stiff". A policeman with seven years experience on the force does not scare easily.

The false report was made when a newsman telephoned a station where a clerk answered the phone and told the newsman that his opinion the light was a reflection from the headlight. The newsman apparently was the type who writes about everything and an expert on nothing reported the clerk's opinion as fact.

The drivers after leaving half of their wagons on a siding proceeded westward to Cook where there was a change of crew. Contrary to a report that the difficulty of the engine was not related to the UFO report, when the engine returned to Port Augusta, nothing could be found that caused the malfunction.

The debunking of this incident was characteristic of the debunking of other cases such as the Valentich encounter and the filming of the objects off the coast of New Zealand, two and one-half after the Valentich disappearance, "as only reflection of lights in the distance".

On 19th September I continued my trip on to Katherine, Northern Territory, where a one hour blackout had occurred during the presence of unidentified lights in the sky but attributed to flying foxes.

Another coincidence along the UFO trail.

EDITORIAL CONT...

Arrangements for Dr. Hynek's meeting with Rev. Lionel Browning, who with his wife made a spectacular sighting near Cressy, Tasmania, was made by TUFOIC in Tasmania.

Melbourne's prestigious Dallas Brooks Hall was booked by VUFORS for Allen Hynek's lecture just before his departure for his return trip to the United States. Members who attended the lecture will recall his tribute to VUFORS where he said it was one of the best UFO research organisations in the world.

Paul Norman



GROUND SAUCER WATCH: BILL SPAULDING

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PHOTOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF PROJECT HESSDALEN - NORWAY

A collage of color and B&W photographs were forwarded to GSW for computer analysis by Paul Norman. The anomalistic phenomena pictures represent a series of inarticulate light sources taken during a flurry of reports of UO (unidentified objects) by a team in Norway, using scientific methods and applying a serious research effort to identify the source (origin) of the images.

All major modes of computer processing were used during the evaluation. At no time did GSW attempt to use any of the sighting descriptive data and apply it to the photograph. Each photograph was treated as a separate entity and appropriately evaluated. For ease of reporting our data, each photo was numbered 1 through 8.

The following information was obtained:

Photo 1 - Two white lights with a red light

- o The lights are very bright and measure nearly the same density.
- o The lights appear to be elongated in shape, as opposed to being elongated due to "object" movement within the field of camera view.
- o The size of the light images, as measured with video micro-meters, are nearly equal in length.
- o There is no evidence of any 'structure' behind or adjacent to the light sources.
- o Distance calculations, based on distortion measurement techniques, appear to show that the lights were photographed at a far distance from the camera.

Photos 2, 3 & 4 - Single, bright light source

- o The subject single light source photos are nearly the same size and density and were evaluated as a system, although photographed on separate occasions (based on the data provided to GSW).
- o The subject lights (photos 2&3) reveal a light band (aura) effect permeating around the circumference of the light image.
- o The photographic data within the center of the light image, reveals a non-symmetrically shaped source.
- o Photo 4 reveals 'object' movement, accounting for the elongated shape.

Photos 5, 6 & 7 - Single, bright light source

- o The symmetry between photos 5&6 is equal.
- o The density, as compared to all three pictures, is nearly constant.
- o The aura effect on these photographs is similar to the banding (of light) noted in Photos 2 through 4.
- o This series of pictures indicates that this unknown light source is close to the ground. The brilliance from the light is illuminating structures on the ground.
- o There is no evidence of a hoax technique applied to these photos.

Photo 8 - Light streak across photo field of view

- o A 75mm lens has a field of view of approximately 32 degrees.
- o Assuming that the photo used for analysis was not cropped, the UI has transversed approximately 82 percent or 26 degrees of sky, with an exposure time of 10 seconds - this object (light) was not traveling very fast and is well within the parameters of an aircraft. However, the oscillation pattern is too tight and symmetrical for a common wing light. Note: All calculations could be off considerably, if there was wobble in the camera mount.
- o The density of the 'streak' dims & brightens as the UI crosses the camera's field of view.
- o Distortion calculations indicate that the UI is at an appreciable distance from the camera.

Conclusions

Although most nocturnal light photos can be simply replicated by photographing landing and wing lights of aircraft, Xenon lights on helicopters or a simple pen lite (with and without mirrors), Photos 5,6 and 7 do not lend themselves to this possibility.

In addition, NATO and the Soviet Union have been testing RPVs (remotely piloted vehicles) and slow moving drones in the Scandinavian countries for years, Photo 5 through 7 do not fully meet this criteria.

Although there was no photographic evidence uncovered (such as a structured surface) which would aid in the identification, conventional sources can not be overlooked as the stimulus for many of these cases. However, in the case of Photo 5, if sufficient observational data such as; no sound heard during the sighting, exists then we would consider this incident an unknown to all conventional sources/origins.

Fred Adrian  
GSW Photographic Consultant

William H. Spaulding  
Director

PROJECT HESSDALEN - RADAR PHOTOS

The two photographs showing a 'radar target' from the Hessdalen Project sightings were forwarded to GSW for evaluation. The two color pictures of the targets on the radar screen contain anomalous reflections due to poor photographic techniques.

The photograph enhancement and the following interpretation of the radar targets is extremely difficult. Initially, we are working, for all technical purposes, with a picture from a glass-based surface. Secondly, we are dealing with a sound reflection from an "object" that is reflecting radar waves onto a CRT.

Not all of our 'UFO software' worked on these pictures and therefore, used a collage of modified programs to interpret (or should I say attempted to interpret) these pictures. The following was ascertained.

1. The signal from the target appears to be solid, therefore, a return from a good radar-reflecting source.
2. The shape of the 'return' is non-symmetrical and is more dense in the center (reference the color computer photos).
3. The return appears to be more indicative of one from a water-laden cloud, which would explain the shape of the targets.

4. The edges (periphery) of the return are tenuous. This could be attributable, however, to the photographic technique employed by the photographer, rather than attributable to the radar target.

#### Conclusion:

If the weather report can be substantiated that the target is not connected to the environmental conditions during the time the photograph was taken and if all tests were conducted by the equipment operator to verify that the image is not a radar 'ghost', then the returns could be connected to the sightings of strange aerial phenomena.

This is the best we can do with this type of photograph. An expert radar operator, from the FAA or similar organization, given sufficient data on this incident, should be able to provide additional insight to these events.

Fred Adrian  
GSW Photographic Consultant

William Spaulding  
Director

## DISCUSSION NIGHT

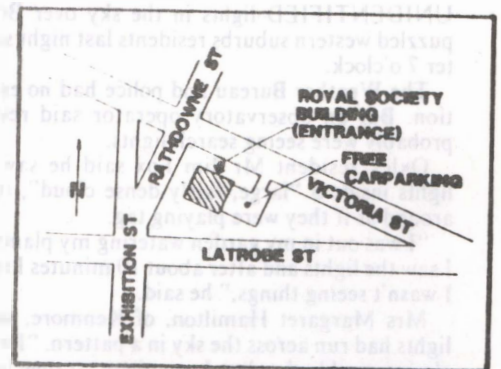
#### For your Diary

M A R C H	2nd	1987	MEETING
J U N E	1st	1987	MEETING
S E P T	7th	1987	MEETING
D E C	7th	1987	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TIME : 8:00pm

WHERE : 'The Royal Society of Victoria'  
Victoria St., Melbourne (SEE MAP)

COST : \$1.00 donation per person. (for  
supper)



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## VUFORS COMMITTEE

*Wishing You Peace, Happiness  
and the True Spirit of Christmas*



## VALLEE VISITS LONDON

MIKE WOUTTEN

On June 30th, British ufology was given the opportunity to be lectured by one of the most learned gentlemen of international ufology, Dr. Jacques Vallee. CHALLENGE TO SCIENCE (1966) and PASSPORT TO MAGONIA (1969) are among his classic writings.

Prior to the address Jenny Rendles and I were given the unique opportunity of meeting Vallee privately at his hotel to, hopefully, discuss theories and current research in the USA and UK.

Since his last book, MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION in 1979 Vallee has been somewhat removed from direct involvement with mainstream, state-of-the-art investigation and research into UFOs. So we asked him whether he had been disillusioned with such a perplexing subject. "Not at all. If you are going to write a book or article, it has to be new, with a new approach. I have been investigating cases privately, cases that have not previously been made public." So it looked as if we were in for a real treat in the evening!

The lecture was organised by the International Centre for UFO Research (CUFOR) NOT to be confused with CUFOS, there is no connection whatsoever. The title of the lecture was changed at the last minute to CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FOURTH DIMENSIONAL KIND. An insight to the contents of the lecture? No, unfortunately not. Most of British ufology's seasoned researchers were there (literally a "Who's Who?") with very few members of the general public in attendance. We were treated to a very well presented introduction to ufology. Discussions on Betty and Barney Hill, Lonnie Zamora, Valenciole etc. Reappraisals of classic cases but no new approach or solutions. A selection of photographs were shown but again nothing new.

The conclusion, "UFOs are a multi-faceted phenomenon, but some cases may represent a phenomena from another dimension. OK, that's fair enough, UFOs are a multifaceted phenomenon and maybe some cases do represent a phenomena not from our own space/

## PRESS:

### Lights puzzle residents

UNIDENTIFIED lights in the sky over Brisbane puzzled western suburbs residents last night soon after 7 o'clock.

The Weather Bureau and police had no explanation. But an observatory operator said residents probably were seeing search lights.

Oxley resident Mr Jim Fox said he saw three lights inside a "large, fairly dense cloud", running around as if they were playing tag.

"I was out in my garden watering my plants when I saw the lights and after about 10 minutes I realised I wasn't seeing things," he said.

Mrs Margaret Hamilton, of Kenmore, said the lights had run across the sky in a pattern. "I was just closing my blinds when I saw these strange lights in the eastern sky," she said.

A Weather Bureau spokesman said he received a spate of calls about the lights about 7.30 p.m.

"We have no explanation but we are pretty confident it was not a meteorological phenomenon," he said.

21 NOV 86

COURIER MAIL, QLD



## Have THEY landed in Dandenong?

A 25-year-old Noble Park man has reported a sighting of UFOs over Dandenong.

Mr Tim Lowen told The Journal that at 9pm on Wednesday 6 August he was walking along McFees Rd, North Dandenong, when he saw a long row of lights in the southern sky.

He said the amber-colored lights appeared to be travelling along in a line.

Mr Lowen said he waved down a motorist to show the lights to him to prove he wasn't "seeing things".

Mr Lowen, who later caught a taxi and said he got

the taxi driver to look at the lights, said: "I've got plenty of witnesses".

He said the lights were there for a long time and he phoned television channels, and the police.

Mr Lowen said: "When the police came, a policeman said he thought the light was part of the Southern Cross but I pointed out to him it couldn't be because the Southern Cross was elsewhere".

The Journal phoned the RAAF to see if there had been any plane activity in the area that night and was referred to president of the Victorian UFO Society, Mrs Judith McGee, who said there was a report from a woman in the Geelong area on Monday about a sighting over Geelong.

18 AUG 1986

DANDENONG JOURNAL, VIC

### PERTH'S UFO FOUND

A LOW-flying monoplane with computerised advertising signs is responsible for over 90 reported UFO sightings over Perth in recent weeks.

Mr Mike Borley, of the Perth UFO Society, said that over the past three weekends the society had received 92 reports of possible UFO sightings.

He said that investigations had revealed that the plane which carried the flashing computerised sign was in the air at the same time as people made the reports.

7th NOV 1986

WEST AUSTRALIA, WA



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**N**obody has a clue as to what's in the galaxy," Paul Horowitz says in his office at Harvard University's Lyman Laboratory. There may be no intelligent life, but he still wants to take a good look. "I'd be crazy not to try." So Horowitz—a forty-three-year-old physics professor—built a compact computer and hooked it up to an old radio telescope that had been mothballed since 1975. The renovated telescope—an 84-foot-diameter dish-shaped antenna mounted on a 60-foot tower—stands atop a hill in Harvard, Massachusetts, 30 miles west of Boston. It scours the heavens night and day, listening for signs of extraterrestrial intelligence.

This effort is the most comprehensive quest for alien life yet undertaken. The venture, formerly known as Project Sentinel, got off to a dramatic start in March 1983, when Carl Sagan announced, as a bottle of champagne was smashed against the telescope, "Let the search begin." Sentinel could scan 131,072 radio signals at the same time. "But even that wasn't enough," Horowitz says. So with the help of Ivan Linscott, Brian Matthews, and John Forster he built Sentinel's successor, called META (for Megachannel ExtraTerrestrial Array), which is capable of analyzing 8.4 million channels simultaneously.

META began its cosmic sweep last September, when *E.T.* movie director Steven Spielberg—aided by his three-and-a-half-month-old son Max—flipped on the power switch. Besides being able to analyze a chunk of the microwave spectrum that is 100 times broader than what Sentinel could manage, META avoids another of its predecessor's major drawbacks. Sentinel was able to detect only radio signals beamed directly at our solar system, a limitation Horowitz acknowledges as "pretty outrageous." META can detect any signals targeted at our galaxy or out to the universe.

Scientists have looked since 1960 for radio signals from distant civilizations. But META, Horowitz says, "accomplishes more searching in one minute than could have been done in one hundred thousand years with the first receiver."

"There have been a few bugs here and there, but on balance the system works

well," explains Gunther Schwartz, a member of the project's support staff. Schwartz stops off at the observatory every day at about one in the afternoon to see if the computer has picked up anything of interest. He checks the largest signals that have been received over the previous 24 hours and shifts the orientation of the antenna.

At the beginning of a search cycle, which takes about a year, the antenna is pointed straight at the horizon. Each day until the end of the cycle, Schwartz tilts it up half a degree. In the course of the year the telescope will cover 80 percent of the sky.

On the wall of the office next to the telescope there's a sign that reads: E T CALL HARVARD. The room also houses the new spectrum analyzer designed by Horowitz. Capable of handling about 75 million instructions per second, the device is about as powerful as a Cray supercomputer. But Horowitz was able to build it for about one hundredth the cost of the Cray by hooking together 144 computers. Cheap labor provided by undergraduates, who soldered nearly half a million circuit connections, helped keep costs down.

META works 24 hours a day, monitoring radio signals. Unlike optical instruments, which can be used only on clear nights, radio equipment can operate regardless of atmospheric conditions. "The system runs by itself," Schwartz says, "and it's cheap." It takes about \$20,000 a year to run the project.

Horowitz says that there are not enough hard data yet to estimate the odds of finding intelligent life elsewhere. Nevertheless the fact that life evolved here on Earth is good evidence that it probably happened elsewhere. "There's nothing extraordinary about our sun and nothing special about our Earth," he says.

"Take anything in astronomy," he continues. "There's never just one. Usually if you find one of something, like some strange star, then people find handfuls, dozens, hundreds of these things. I doubt there's an example—quasars, eclipses, novas, supernovas—of anything that happens once."

What if the search turns up nothing? "It may be that the nature of intelligence itself is self-annihilating," Horowitz says. "As technology improves, the capability of a single person to wipe out the whole civilization improves with it. You may have short-lived civilizations that pop up here and there but not at the same time. And so they could never communicate with one another. That would be sad to think of. I hope it's not true. I hope there's plenty of stuff out there, and I hope we can get the satisfaction of knowing they're there. And who knows? We might even learn from them how to stay technologically alive."

END



The Brazilian Connection

Dr. Willy Smith

UNICAT Project

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## Sequence of events.

After maintaining a low profile for a period of several years, UFOs have regained the world headlines following an incident in Brazilian air space during the night of May 19, 1986.

On that night, a Monday, an executive plane was en route from Brasilia to Sao Jose dos Campos (near Sao Paulo). While starting its descent, it was alerted by the Sao Paulo radar control that an unknown object was in the area.

In the pilot seat was a well known man: Colonel Osires Silva, head of PETROBRAS, the Brazilian state-owned oil company. According to the official version, Col. Silva was the first to visually spot the unidentified object as a "dancing point in the sky" (2). Next to Osires Silva was a civilian pilot, Commander Alcir Pereira da Silva. In his statement to the press (1), Comm. Alcir Pereira da Silva indicated that when they had descended to 2000 ft., the pilots perceived a strong light and turned the plane in its direction. The light is described as "brighter than a star, emitting a constant red-orange light" and also as being on for 10-15 seconds, then off, only to reappear at a different location (1). The chase was abandoned after about 30 minutes.

By that time, the Brazilian Defense Center (CINDACTA = Centro Integrado de Defesa Aerea e Controle de Trafego Aereo) was on full alert, as the radar screens in the vicinity of Sao Jose dos Campos and nearby Sao Paulo were saturated and all air traffic had been interrupted (2).

Only minutes after the appearance of the unknown objects, jets fighters were scrambled from two Air Force bases: Santa Cruz, in the State of Sao Paulo, and Anapolis, near Brasilia. The planes attempted to approach the lights, and although they achieved visual-radar contact, were unable to approach the lights.

The incident terminated near midnight as suddenly as it had started, with the UFO disappearing simultaneously from radar and from visual observation after moving toward the ocean beyond the Brazilian coast. The duration of the sighting was close to three hours.

## The pilots' tales,

According to our correspondent in Rio, Mrs Irene Branchi, the 7 pilots and 3 radar controllers that participated in the incidents appeared on television (4). All of the seven pilots were military, except the already named Comm. Alcir Pereira da Silva.

Three F-5E jets were scrambled from the Santa Cruz AFB near Sao Paulo. In addition, three Mirage III jet fighters were scrambled from the Anapolis AFB, but only one had an effective contact.

The pilot of one of the F-5E was Lt. Kleber Caldas Marinho. Following radioed instructions, he vectored his plane to a target 35 miles distant, but was unable to close in. The radar control informed him at this point that the target was closing in rapidly. However, the pilot didn't see anything, and in his own words, "one gets scared of what one sees, and I saw nothing." Later in the chase, he finally obtained a visual contact. As verified by both the ground radar and the



on-board radar, the target was at a distance of 35 miles, but when the pilot tried to narrow the gap it was "like attempting to reach a point at infinity," in spite of his 1000 Km/hr (625 MPH) speed. He describes the target as a reddish light, very intense, which changed colors when the chase was aborted (3).

The pilot of the second F-5E, Capt. Marcio Jordao, was able to reduce the distance to the target to 12 miles. He describes the UFO as a very strong light of continuous intensity, and changing colors continuously from white to green. Capt. Jordao broke up the contact when the object moved over the sea beyond the 200 mile limit from Santa Cruz (3).

From the three Mirages scrambled from the Anapolis Base, only one was able to establish actual contact. It was piloted by Capt. Armindo Souza Viriato de Freitas, whose statements we transcribe (4,8):

"I was warned by ground control that there were several targets ahead of me, at a distance of 20 miles and ranging in number from 10 to 13. I was also advised that the targets were approaching my plane, and finally that they were following me at a distance of 2 miles (sic)." The radar controller advised Capt. Viriato that he had several targets behind his plane, six to one side and seven to the other.

According to O GLOBO (3), Capt. Viriato added that the targets made 80 degree turns (possibly 180 degrees was meant) and that he could not manage to have a visual contact right ahead of his plane. "No plane I know can make turns like that at 1000 Km/hr," he concluded.

At the close of the press conference, the Air Ministry declared that no further reports are to be expected on the incidents until the special commission appointed to investigate the events has reached a conclusion.

\*\*\*\*

The Air Minister.

The Air Minister, Brigadier Octavio Julio Moreira Lima, after informing the President of Brazil, Jose Sarney, of the

incident, proceeded to inform the press that the radar screen of CINDACTA in Sao Paulo had been saturated, that jets had been scrambled, and that visual-radar contacts had been established with "balls of light of multiple colors."

This is the first time that a high-ranking officer of the air force of any nation has come forward and admitted the presence of unidentified objects, and moreover, indicated that intercept attempts had failed (2, 5).

During the press conference Bdr. Moreira Lima pointed out "that radar is not subject to optical illusions. The radar echos are due to solid objects or to massive clouds, which were not present that night."

Strangely enough, the Air Minister did not seem concerned about this unchecked penetration of the Brazilian air space, but was rather proud of the prompt response of the Air Force to an alert (7).

According to CLARIN (2), the decision to release the news to the public was made personally by President Sarney, another first.

\*\*\*\*



## Conclusions.

Although their number is uncertain, numerous UFOs were observed visually and detected by both ground and airborne radars. The episode lasted for near three hours, but the only concrete information is that they were balls of light of different and changing colors, which the jets fighters could not really approach. As in many other cases, the initiation and termination of the incident were sudden and unexpected.

Weather was good, a clear night without clouds, so that radar echoes remain unexplained. The number of echoes was very large, enough to saturate the radar screens and according to the Air Minister corresponded to solid targets.

Nowhere in the original Brazilian newspaper clippings have I found a direct quote about the pingpong balls mentioned in the American press.

As for the speeds of the UFOs, only two specific quotes were made by the Brazilian press. The first refers to the statements made by Colonel Osires Silva, who is an aeronautical engineer by training, commenting on his attempt to approach the lights. He indicated that the maximum speed of his plane was 400 Km/hr (250 MPH), while the lights were apparently moving at a speed of 1500 Km/hr (937 MPH) (6).

The second concrete mention of speeds was made by Major Ney Cerqueira, head of CINDACTA, who actively participated in the tracking operations. According to Maj. Cerqueira, "due to technical limitations in the radar equipment" the speeds could not be determined with precision. "The speeds detected

varied in an interval of 5 to 10 minutes from 150 Knots/hr to 800 Knots/hr" (5). In miles per hours, this corresponds to a range of 173 to 921 MPH, and matches well with the information that jets, with speeds of 1000 Km/hr (625 MPH) were unable to close on the lights.



The sighting started, according to the Air Ministry, at 20:50 and ended about midnight, having thus a total duration of 3 hours (8). Finally, the number of UFOs has been quoted by the media as between 13 and 21. The Air Minister placed the number at 20 (7).

Since most of the information on which this report is based was obtained from newspaper clippings, usually a very unreliable source, it is necessary to emphasize that in this particular instance the media did a very faithful reporting job. Most of the details were released at the press conference at which the pilots related their experiences and the information as written in the different papers is consistent and seems accurate.

Dr. Willy Smith  
UNICAT Project  
June 1986.

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# URANUS: A UNIQUE VISIT BY VOYAGER 2

BY MARK.E.SAWYER

It is with bizarre irony that the tragic destruction of the space shuttle Challenger has overshadowed one of the greatest achievements of NASA's space exploration program - the flyby of Uranus by the robot explorer Voyager 2. Voyager 2 had encountered Uranus only a few days prior to the shuttle disaster, and even as Challenger exploded 9 miles above the Florida coast to herald in NASA's darkest hour, Voyager 2 was faithfully transmitting photographs and a myriad of various other scientific data from the Uranian system, some 3 billion kilometers (1.7 billion miles) away.

Uranus was discovered on March 13th, 1781 by the English amateur astronomer William Herschel. It was the first planet discovered using a telescope, and the first discovered since ancient times.

Although Uranus was sighted before 1781, it had been mistakenly identified up until that time, as a star. In fact, Herschel himself had thought that Uranus was a comet when he first viewed it.

Uranus is the seventh planet in order from the Sun, and the third largest. Prior to the visit by Voyager 2, very little was known about Uranus - it was and still is very much a mystery planet.

It was known that Uranus had 5 moons. In order from the planet, these were Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Titania and Oberon.

We also knew that Uranus is unique in that its axis is tilted  $98^\circ$  to vertical, causing it to appear to spin in a retrograde direction (in an opposite direction to the Earth's rotation). Of the 9 known planets, only Uranus and Venus exhibit this characteristic.

The plane of Uranus' orbit is  $0^\circ 46'$  (or  $0.77^\circ$ ) from the ecliptic (the plane of the Earth's orbit around the Sun), this being the closest orbital plane to the ecliptic of any of the other planets.

Uranus was believed to consist mainly of hydrogen, helium and methane (the methane gives the planet its greenish colour), and it orbits the Sun once every 84 years.

The length of its day was calculated to be approximately 10.8 hours, its equatorial diameter 51,800 kms (32,200 miles) and its polar diameter 49,000 kms (30,050 miles). Its mass was thought to be 14.6 times that of Earth's, and its density approximately 1.27 (where the density of water is 1).

It was also known that Uranus had a system of rings, though much smaller and fainter than the rings of Saturn. These rings were discovered in 1977, while measurements were being taken of the occultation (the obscuring by one astronomical object of another), by Uranus of a star.

Voyager 2 gave us the chance to take our first close-up look at Uranus - a chance we had to make the most of, since it would be the last opportunity we would have to view the planet at such close proximity for many years - certainly the last opportunity this century.

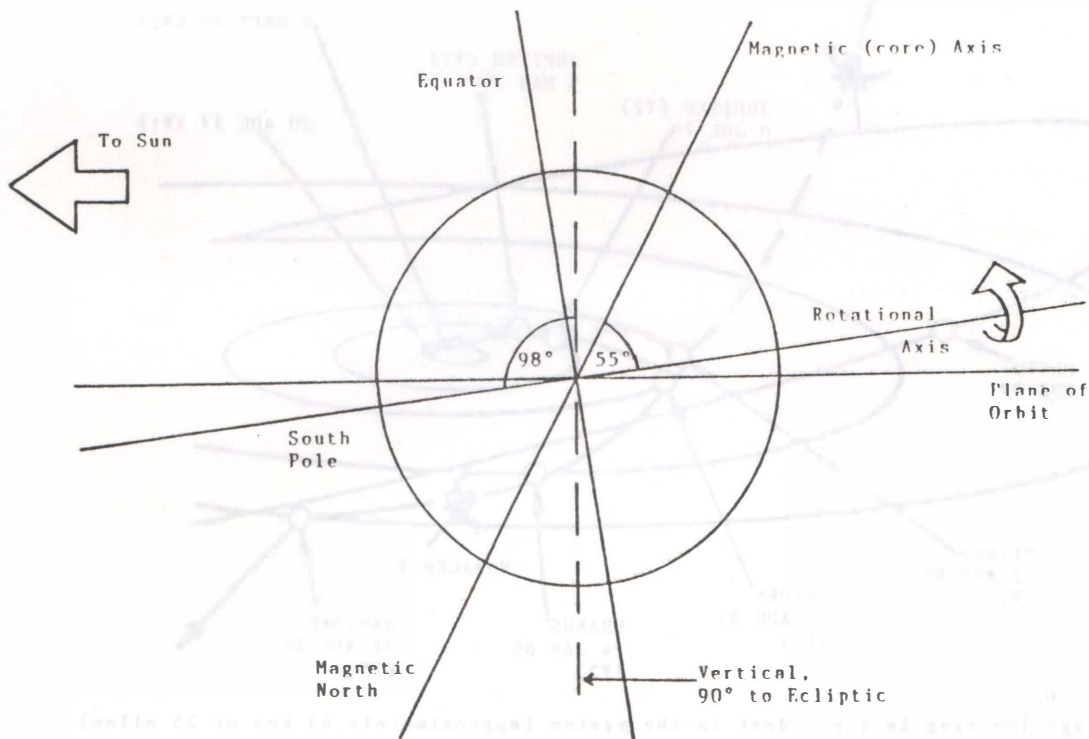
Voyager 2 was launched in 1977, and was originally planned to reach only Jupiter and Saturn. This it did successfully, and was in such good shape after its encounter with Saturn in August 1981, that it just kept on keeping on. The computers at the Voyager mission control centre at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena California were extensively re-programmed, and Voyager 2 was instructed to set sail for Uranus (Voyager 1 was flung out of the orbital plane of the planets, and therefore out of the Solar System, following its encounter with Saturn in November 1980).

Voyager 2 made its closest approach to Uranus on January 24th, 1986, coming to within 80,000 kms (50,000 miles) of the planet. The encounter with the Uranian system was over in the space of a few hours. This was because Voyager 2 met Uranus head on rather than side on, due to the fact that its axis is tilted at  $98^\circ$  to vertical. The spacecraft therefore journeyed from the south pole to the north pole, instead of travelling closely parallel to the plane of the equator, as it did with Jupiter and Saturn. This meant that Voyager 2 intersected the plane of the equator almost perpendicular to it (see fig 1).

Voyager 2 thus had limited opportunities to photograph and observe the moons of Uranus.

This limitation did not, however, impede Voyager 2 from sending back some very clear and indeed spectacular photographs of the 5 known moons. While the photographs of the planet itself did not reveal very much detail, the photographs of the moons were absolutely stunning. They showed in graphic detail, the terrain and other surface features of these 5 worlds that, prior to the encounter, were just pin-pricks of light in a telescope.

## URANIAN AXES OF ROTATION AND MAGNETIC FIELD



Miranda was the most bizarre and chaotic moon encountered. Ten different types of terrain were observed, many of which were like nothing else yet discovered in the Solar System. A good deal of the surface was shaped by the tidal forces of Uranus, Miranda being close enough to Uranus for such forces to have been exerted. One crater on Miranda was calculated to be 35 kms in diameter. Voyager 2 actually flew closer to Miranda than it has to any other body that the spacecraft has yet visited.

Ariel has experienced quite a deal of past geological activity. Bright deposits appeared to be the rims of craters too small for the camera's resolution. Glaciers also appear to be spread out over the surface, and like Miranda, Ariel is close enough to Uranus to have been influenced by tidal forces. Ariel is the brightest object in the Uranian system.

Umbriel seemed surprisingly dark and quiet, with no significant history of geological activity. A large donut shaped object on its surface is as yet unidentified.

Titania, Uranus' largest satellite, appears fractured, with long ridges, craters and glacial flows. This moon has obviously had a very turbulent past, being

shaped by forces both internal and external. Light shaded areas on some valley walls facing the Sun indicate possible deposits of young frost.

Oberon has an icy surface scarred with bright crater marks. There is evidence here also, of the satellite having been subjected to strong internal forces.

As well as providing us with details of the 5 known moons, Voyager 2 also discovered 10 more moons on its pass through the Uranian system.

All of these 'new' moons are fairly small, and all lie within the orbit of Miranda. The largest, and closest to Miranda, has been dubbed 1985U1 (named so because it was the first, and indeed the only moon of Uranus, to be discovered in 1985). It is approximately 165 kms (100 miles) in diameter. Another 6 moons labelled 1986U1 through to 1986U6, lie between 1985U1 and Uranus' ring system. All 6 have a diameter of between approximately 50 and 90 kms (between 30 and 55 miles).

In addition, two very small moons about 15 kms (10 miles) in diameter, and named 1986U7 and 1986U8, were discovered, one orbiting either side of the epsilon ring (the outer most ring of Uranus). These have been dubbed 'shepherd' moons, as it appears that they exert forces on the ring which help to keep it intact.

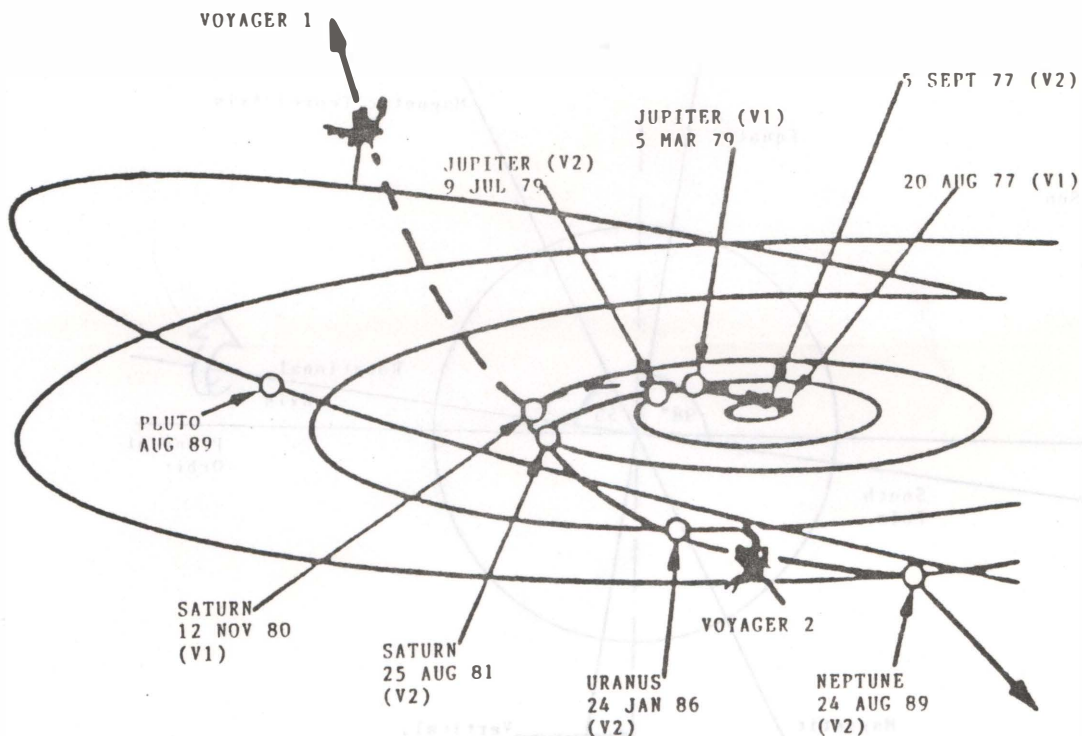
The last moon to be discovered was 1986U9, which lies third in order from Uranus.

As for the ring system itself, Voyager 2 discovered a tenth ring, named 1986U1R, to add to the 9 that were already known. This ring lies between the epsilon ring and the delta ring (the 2 outer most rings of the 9 previously known). The ring system is thin and dark, the rings consisting mainly of methane ice blackened by radiation, with possibly some rocky remnants of a crushed former moon.



## VOYAGER'S PATH OF DISCOVERY

V1 = VOYAGER 1  
V2 = VOYAGER 2



The epsilon ring is the widest in the system (approximately 43 kms or 25 miles). Most ring particles are boulder sized, with very few dust sized particles. It appears that something is brushing the dust particles out of the system.

The total mass of the Uranian rings is very small, probably no more than the mass of Saturn's Cassini Division.

The ten rings in order from Uranus are designated: 6, 5, 4, alpha, beta, eta, gamma, delta, 1986U1R and epsilon.

Much of the telemetry received from Voyager 2 is still being analysed, and will be for many years to come, but we have nonetheless been able to glean some important and interesting facts about Uranus, from the information processed thus far.

Voyager 2 detected and measured Uranus' magnetic field (it was not certain before the encounter whether or not the planet even had one), which turns out to be approximately 50 times that of the Earth's magnetic field. It was calculated from the magnetic field, that the rocky core of the planet is spinning in a more upright axis than the axis of the outer gaseous layers. Whereas the axis of the

Table I  
PROPERTIES OF URANIAN MOONS

NAME	ORBIT RADIUS (KMS)	DIAMETER (KMS)	PERIOD DAYS HRS MINS	DISCOVERER
1986U7	49,300	15	07 55	Voyager 2 (1986)
1986U8	53,300	20	08 55	Voyager 2 (1986)
1986U9	59,100	50	10 23	Voyager 2 (1986)
1986U3	61,750	70	11 06	Voyager 2 (1986)
1986U6	62,700	50	11 24	Voyager 2 (1986)
1986U2	63,350	50	11 50	Voyager 2 (1986)
1986U1	66,090	90	12 19	Voyager 2 (1986)
1986U4	69,920	50	13 24	Voyager 2 (1986)
1986U5	75,100	50	14 56	Voyager 2 (1986)
1985U1	85,892	165	18 17	Voyager 2 (1985)
Miranda	129,390	480	1 09 55	Kuiper (1948)
Ariel	191,020	1,170	2 12 29	Lassell (1851)
Umbriel	266,030	1,190	4 03 28	Lassell (1851)
Titania	435,910	1,590	8 16 56	Herschel (1787)
Oberon	583,520	1,550	13 11 07	Herschel (1787)

Table 11  
PROPERTIES OF PLANETS VISITED BY VOYAGER 2

	JUPITER -----	SATURN -----	URANUS -----
MEAN DISTANCE FROM SUN (AU)	5.20	9.54	19.18
MEAN DISTANCE FROM SUN (MILLION KMS)	778	1,426	2,870
ECCENTRICITY	0.0485	0.0556	0.0473
INCLINATION TO ECLIPTIC	1°18'	2°29'	0°46'
EQUATORIAL DIAMETER (KMS)	142,800	120,000	51,800
POLAR DIAMETER (KMS)	134,200	108,000	49,000
EQUATORIAL ROTATION (HRS)	9.8	10.2	17.3
DENSITY (WATER = 1)	1.32	0.70	1.27

gaseous layer rotation is pointed more or less at the Sun, the axis of the inner core is not - its axis is shifted at 55° to the axis of the gaseous outer layers (see fig 1).

Although Uranus seemed rather bland and featureless, Voyager 2 did detect cloud movement in the atmosphere, which indicated winds in the vicinity of 300 kph (180 mph).

The south pole of Uranus (facing the Sun at the time of Voyager 2's visit), has a faint brown haze. This is probably caused by sunlight striking atmospheric methane, causing some molecules to form acetylene, resulting in a type of polar 'smog'.

The radiation belts of Uranus were shown to be as intense as those of the Earth, and a very surprising revelation is that the dark side of Uranus is warmer than its day side - a very unusual and curious phenomenon.

From Voyager 2's telemetry, the length of the Uranian day was calculated to be 17.3 hours, in lieu of the 10.8 hours previously calculated from Earth.

The last view of Uranus, as Voyager 2 looked back as it receded away from this mysterious world, showed the planet as a thin and pale blue-green crescent - an angle from which Uranus had never before been seen. It was a fittingly beautiful finale to a truly amazing and spectacular encounter.

Through Voyager 2, we have learned more about Uranus in the period of a few days, than we had for the previous 200 years.

Voyager 2 has proven itself to be a gallant and tireless ambassador, having overcome some potentially daunting technical problems during its flight. It has to be, without any fear of contradiction, one of the most significant and productive scientific instruments ever deployed.

The Voyager 2 mission has been an outstanding success, but it is far from over. This intrepid and ever-reliable little spacecraft has one more leg to complete before escaping to the void of interstellar space.

On August 24th, 1989, Voyager 2 will rendezvous with Neptune, the last of the planets we call the 'great gas giants'.

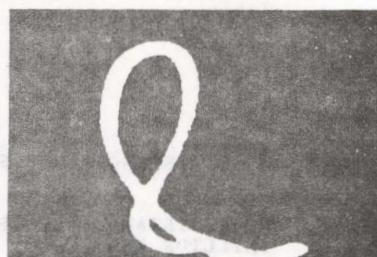
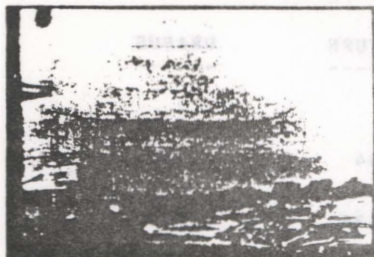
Let us hope and pray that good fortune will continue to prevail in the sojourn of Voyager 2, and that this Grand Finale of what will become the first Grand Tour of the giant gaseous planets of our Solar System, will prove to be yet another uncompromising success before Voyager 2 is dismissed into the cosmos to be lost, but never forgotten.

Mark E. Sawyers  
V.U.F.O.R.S. - July 1986



## MAGAZINE

## UFO watchers flying high on mystery in the skies



Some of the incidents UFO societies around the world cite to back up their beliefs in extra-terrestrial phenomena ... white, circular objects (left) photographed in Massachusetts on July 16, 1952, a UFO (centre) photographed near Moscow in October, 1981, and mystery lights seen off New Zealand in 1978.

## Society with eyes like saucers

By NICK PLACE

It must be among the top 10 late-night dinner-table conversations. Do Unidentified Flying Objects exist? Or even better, have you ever seen a UFO?

For most of us, that's all UFOs are — a tasty and occasionally fiery dinner topic, to be enjoyed alongside ghost stories for a thrill or a scare.

But some people take the subject far more seriously.

Mrs Judith Magee for example. Mrs Magee was enthralled by planes (earthly) from an early age and surprised her school teachers by completing a major school project on the subject, which was considered to be a less than ladylike topic.

In 1942, Mrs Magee joined the air force and was involved in aircraft identification during the war.

After the war, she joined the Australian National Airline (later to become Ansett) and worked there until 1948.

Then her interest in flying objects moved into the realm of the extraordinary and when lawyer Peter Norris formed the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society on February 17, 1957, Mrs Magee joined up.

Almost 30 years later, the society is known as the Victorian UFO Research Society and Mrs Magee is president.

FUNDED by membership subscriptions and affiliated with UFO societies throughout the world, the organisation works closely with the air force to investigate or at least record any strong UFO activity, while the society's investigator, Paul Norman, travels the world.

The society's membership is about 300. Mrs Magee says membership swells and falls depending on how many sightings have occurred recently.

Mrs Magee says about half of the society's members are from overseas and are members of sister UFO research societies or have an interest in the subject.

They pay \$6 a year to receive newsletters giving updates on the latest scientific breakthroughs and details of recent sightings.

Mrs Magee says all the group can really do is try to analyse or interpret the latest evidence and listen to what the air force or scientists came up with.

A few years ago, society members used to meet regularly on One Tree Hill in the Dandenongs and stay there wrapped in rugs and drinking from flasks until early in the morning, waiting for something to appear in the sky.

Mrs Magee admits this was rather optimistic, but she says two carloads of people arrived one night and separately said they'd seen a mysterious orange ball of light shaped like a football travelling away from the hills in the night sky.



It was about this big ... Mrs Judith Magee describes the UFO she sighted in 1962.

Any doubt in Mrs Magee's mind was stamped out on a clear March evening in 1962 when she went outside to open the front gates of her house.

There, about 45 degrees from the horizon in a westerly direction was a large and dazzling light which she thought must have been Venus.

"When I went back inside, though, I remembered all the planets were in conjunction with the Sun at that time — something which only happens every 2000 years or something — so they couldn't be seen. I grabbed the binoculars and ran back outside," she says.

"I thought it must be a helicopter but it hadn't moved and through the binoculars it looked like Saturn, with a ring around it."

Mrs Magee went back inside to check

the dinner and the light was gone when she returned.

MRS Magee says people are not as skeptical as they used to be about UFOs, although she says Australians are less willing to believe in extraterrestrial activity than other people.

"In South America, where there are a lot of sightings, they are much more aware of the subject. Australians are less willing to believe a good story probably because they are used to spinning yarns themselves, such as the servicemen who used to sell the Sydney Harbor Bridge while overseas," she laughs.

"In the early days if you said you believed in UFOs, everyone would look at you as though they couldn't understand and then they'd just roar with laughter."



Fred Valentich

### Missing pilot: a UFO kidnapping or an accident?

On the evening of October 31, 1978, a young but experienced pilot, Frederick Valentich, disappeared while flying to King Island from Melbourne.

Valentich, 20, radioed to Melbourne that he was being shadowed by a UFO, which appeared to be playing with his plane and was capable of tremendous speeds.

As Valentich described the UFO, a metallic hum was heard and the radio went dead. No trace of the young pilot or his Cessna plane was ever found.

A rash of sightings about the same time and even a photo supposedly taken a kilometre away and 20 minutes before Valentich's radio call which showed a metallic object rising from Bass Strait fuelled the debate about whether Valentich had been kidnapped by a UFO.

Mrs Magee was on side with those who had no doubt that Valentich had been taken.

Today, she is just as sure, pointing to about 20 other cases where people have supposedly disappeared while in contact with UFOs.

"Now they say, 'Oh yes, I saw a strange thing once,' or 'Oh, you believe in them, do you?'"

But Mrs Magee and her society can handle the critics, although she says it will take a mass landing which is impossible to cover up or ignore to settle the issue.

"I am convinced there is something out there which does not emanate from this planet and which is under intelligent control," she says.

"Man has tried all sorts of lights and sounds to contact them, but they haven't responded. It's up to them to contact us and when the time comes I think they will."

"When this world gets really bad they may come. Who knows?"

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